

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/645,850
Response filed October 27, 2005
Reply to OA dated June 27, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005.

The noted informality in claim 6 has been corrected.

As to the merits of this case, the applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 11 - 16 would be allowable if rewritten in the manner suggested in item 7, page 7 of the outstanding Office Action.

However, as to the remaining claims, the following rejections are set forth as follows in the outstanding Action:

(1) claims 1 - 4 and 17 - 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) based on Miyashita (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0101790);

(2) claims 5 - 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Miyashita in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0172107); and

(3) claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Miyashita in view of Yamada, and further in view of Matsumoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,282).

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The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

The applicants' claimed invention, as now recited in independent claim 1, is directed to an information processing unit, which includes a reading section for reading information recorded in a recording medium; an information processing section for processing the information read by this reading section; and a positional instruction recognizing section for recognizing an instruction for a prespecified position in said information. The applicants' claimed information processing unit, as now recited in independent claim 1, further includes a change instruction recognizing section recognizing a change instruction to change a reproducing position of the information of the information processing section when a rotary operation is detected; a processing control section for changing the reproducing position of the information processing section when the change instruction is recognized by the change instruction recognizing section; and a display section for displaying an instructed position corresponding to the instructed information on a virtual orbit simulating a movement of the recording medium along a rotary operation direction of the change instruction recognizing section when the positional instruction is recognized by this positional instruction recognizing section.

Significant claimed structural arrangements of the applicants' claimed invention, as now set forth in claim 1, include the claimed change instruction recognizing section recognizing a change instruction to change a reproducing position of the information of the information processing section

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when a rotary operation is detected; the claimed processing control section for changing the reproducing position of the information processing section when the change instruction is recognized by the change instruction recognizing section; and the claimed display section for displaying an instructed position corresponding to the instructed information on a virtual orbit simulating a movement of the recording medium along a rotary operation direction of the change instruction recognizing section when the positional instruction is recognized by this positional instruction recognizing section.

As to independent claim 17, the claimed display method for an information processing unit, as set forth in this claim, includes the steps of reading and processing information recorded in a recording medium; recognizing an instruction for a prespecified position of the information; and displaying an instructed position corresponding to the instructed information.

In the applicants' claimed invention, a change in a reproducing position is recognized by a rotary operation (e.g., the claimed change instruction recognizing section recognizes such change in the reproducing position by the rotary operation). Also in the applicants' claimed invention, instructed position is displayed on a virtual orbit simulating a movement of the recording medium.

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The primary reference of Miyashita lacks the above-discussed claimed structural arrangements or features of the claimed invention. The secondary reference of Yamada is specifically relied upon for teaching “an information playback apparatus” having the structural features set forth in the third full paragraph on page 5 of the outstanding Action, while the other secondary reference of Matsumoto is specifically relied upon for teaching “a recording and/or reproducing apparatus” having the structural features set forth in the last full paragraph on page 6 of the outstanding Action.

Miyashita, Yamada and Matsumoto, singly or in combination, do not however teach the applicants’ distinguishable claimed structural arrangements or features for changing the reproducing position by the rotary operation and displaying the instructed position (destination to which the reproducing position is changed) on the virtual orbit, which allow easy recognition of desired position to be moved on the recording medium. Thus, the relied upon teachings of Yamada or Matsumoto do not supplement the above-discussed deficiencies or drawbacks of Miyashita in failing to fully meet the applicants’ claimed invention.

In view of the above, the applicants respectfully submit that not all of the claimed elements or features are found in the exactly the same situation and united in the same way to perform the

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identical function in Miyashita's apparatus or process. Thus, there can be no anticipation under 35 USC 102(b) of the applicants' claimed invention based on Miyashita.

Also, based on the applicants' above comments, even if *arguendo* the teachings of the cited prior art references can be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combined teachings would still fall far short in fully meeting the applicants' claimed invention. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the applicants' claimed invention obvious under 35 USC 103(a) based on the teachings of Miyashita, Yamada and Matsumoto, singly or in combination.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejection under 35 USC 102(b) based on Miyashita (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0101790), the outstanding obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103(a) based on Miyashita in view of Yamada (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0172107), and the outstanding obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103(a) based on Miyashita in view of Yamada, and further in view of Matsumoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,282) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

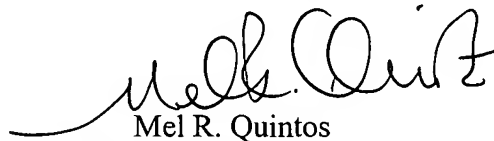
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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